



Harbor Regional Center Service Policy **EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES**

Early Childhood Services are designed specifically for infants, toddlers and pre-school children to improve the child's functioning in one or more areas of delayed development and or to assist the parents to understand, accept and work with their child's disability/at risk condition. The services may begin as early as shortly after birth and may continue until the child is eligible for a public school program. Such services may be made available to infants and toddlers who have a developmental disability, as well as those under the age of 3, who are at risk of having such a disability or who demonstrate some developmental delay.

Some infants/toddlers with or are at risk for a developmental disability thrive in a nurturing home environment and may not require regional center purchased intervention. Others may need only the services offered through the Medical Treatment Unit of California Children's Services various therapies available through private insurance or other third party payers.

Early Intervention Services may be provided in the family's/caregiver's home or at a pre-school or other program site. Such services may include developmental monitoring and consultation, occupational and physical therapy, infant development and pre-school programs.

Fees will not be charged for the services that a child is otherwise entitled to receive at no cost to parents. An infant or toddler may be considered for the purchase of an in-home early intervention service only if all of the following criteria are met:

1. The infant/toddler has or is at risk of developing a developmental disability or demonstrates a developmental delay; and
2. An assessment/consultation has indicated that in-home early intervention services may reduce the risk or lessen the effects of a developmental disability or delay; and
3. The child is not eligible for the needed early intervention service funded through private insurance, the public schools or any other generic resource; and
4. The parent/primary caregiver participates in the in-home early intervention service; and
5. The frequency of such intervention is consistent with that recommended by the interdisciplinary team but not more than 3 times per week.

Harbor Regional Center is committed to providing services in the "most inclusive" environment. In considering site-based services for toddlers and preschoolers, this means that necessary services and supports should be provided in natural typical neighborhood schools with non-disabled youngsters as opposed to special or segregated environments. Accordingly, Harbor Regional Center will place priority on the purchase of such pre-school services, including fees and supports for toddlers and pre-school children. A toddler or preschooler may be considered for the purchase of site-based services and supports only if all of the following criteria are met:

1. The toddler/preschooler has or is at risk of developing a developmental disability or demonstrates a developmental delay; and
2. An assessment/consultation has indicated that site-based services and supports may reduce the risk or lessen the effects of a developmental disability; and
3. The child is not eligible for a site-based or pre-school program funded by the public schools or any other generic resource; and
4. The child is at least 18 months of age; and
5. The frequency of such intervention is consistent with that recommended by the interdisciplinary team, but not more than 3 half-days per week if the child is less than 30 months of age nor more than 5 half-days per week if the child is over 30 months of age; and
6. Regular attendance must be observed in order for the purchase to continue (if the child's attendance falls below 70% for 3 consecutive months, funding continuation will be reviewed and consideration given to an in-home or a reduced program).

The specific services/supports recommended for the child will be determined by a variety of factors reviewed by the interdisciplinary team including the child's medical involvement, if any, the home environment and proximity of the program to the child's home or availability of public transit (if purchase of transportation services is considered, see Service Policy #16 – Transportation)

Approved by the HDDF Board of Trustees, July 20, 1999